Previous references.

Rev. Min (9-06) 7414

1909.

(medical)

File No. 253-08

Serial Nos. 1-2

Later references.

26-09 (1-2)

Rev. 190 26-1

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos. 1—2

Part B. for Jan 1909

SUBJECT.

Rules regarding post-mortem Examinations conducted by medical Officers.

From the Surgeon. ice 26709 dt 9-5-09. Forwards for needful action a Set of rules regarding post-mortem Exn &c & requests Sanction & Rs Same

2 Do Do : Secy-Com V & D.G. of Police. no 518-20 dt 2/09 States that the rules as Compiled by the Surgeon are approved for adoption

G. R. S. 58

G.R.S.11]

1908-09

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

(medical)

NOTES.

File No. 253-08

FILE HEADING.

Rules regarding post mortem ~~examinations~~ examinations Conducted by medical officers

From

The Senior Surgeon

No. 9709 Dated 19.5.09 Received 21.5.09

Diary No. 8354	Enclos. 1	Spare Copies	Serial No. 1

BRIEF ABSTRACT OF LETTER.

Forwards for needful action a Set of rules regarding post mortem exams collected from scattered documents & arranged and requests Sanction to the rules if the Same are approved.

1

NOTES AND ORDERS.

The rules are based mainly on the ~~Bombay~~ rules issued with the late Chief Commr's N.S. No. 237 of the 25th Sept 1875. The rules framed by the Senior Surgeon Contain ~~certain~~ additions to and ~~on~~ certain omissions from those of 1875

NOTES—First sheet

GPB—30,000—3-4-07

Serial No.

His Senior Surgeon would have done well if he had Counter marked against the addns & alterations the authority on which the same are based. In addition to the rules of 1875, the Senior Surgeon has incorporated in the set of rules now laid by him: circular no. 70, of 26.6.07 issued by the D. G. of Police in mysore. It is not known whether this officer obtained the approval of Govt to the circular before issuing it

2 Post mortem exams & examinations on the bodies of wounded persons &c are generally Conducted by medical officers at the instance of the Police in ord cases or in Connection with writ requests heed by magistrates. As such the Senior Surgeon's Comm^n appears to be one legitimately to be dealt with in the Jud^l Branch III.

3 Laid for orders

Addl Sec 29.5.09

4 The Rules sent are almost the same as those published under Govt not^n no 237 dated 25th Sep 1875.

5 In the Rules regarding the transmission of suspected substances to the Chemical

GPB—50,000—13-5-08

Serial No.

Examiner and their analyses, old Rule III has been omitted in the Rules now submitted for sanction. ....

..... The case is however one to be dealt with by Br. III and it may therefore be transferred to that Branch

2.6.09. JCWW

7. In view of the Secretary's orders on page 3 of Rev. Mis. File 9-06. these rules will have to be dealt with in the administrative Branch concerned, which may refer them if necessary, to this Branch for remarks. The rules are proposed to be issued more as instructions to the Medical Officers than for Courts. Subd for orders.

dcs 5.6.1909 GW 7/6/09

8. It appears to me that this is a matter that can not conveniently be dealt with in Br. III The proposed rules are framed by the Senior Surgeon for the guidance of his Subordinates and they are not

Note—Contn. sheet.

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framed under the provisions of any law or Regulation ~~[illegible]~~

9 After the draft rules have been considered in the ~~of~~ administrative branch Concerned, they may, if necessary, be sent here for opinion

8/6/09. SH

10 W 8 VIV

W 03 Lur 3716

Submitted for orders

Allowing

10.6.09.

11. Note Continued as personally directed by the Asst Secy:—

The following ~~[illegible]~~ are the points of distinction between the rules prescribed with the Senior Surgeon's letter and those issued with the late Chief Commr's ~~[illegible]~~ dt 25.9.1875:—

(1) the last Sentence of the Chief Commr's rule I ~~[illegible]~~ has been omitted by the Senior Surgeon in his rule no (1).

This comes in under Rule 8

(2) Chief Commr's rule IV is omitted by the Senior Surgeon but the provisions thereof are included in Senior Surgeon's rule (2)

(3) The provisions of Chief Commr's rule XI ~~is~~ are incorporated in Sen: Surgeon's rule 16.

(4) Chief Commr's rule XXII is omitted by the Sen: Surgeon and the provisions ~~thereof~~ thereof

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

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are included ~~in~~ into more detailed instructions in rule 23

(5) Chief Commr's ~~rule~~ para VI of rules for transmission of substances to the Chemical Examiner has been omitted by the Senior Surgeon.

May be omitted. HWW

(6) Chief Commr's para III of the rules referred to in (5) supra has been wholly omitted by the Senior Surgeon, probably under the impression that the duty referred to in question by examination of articles in which vegetable poison is suspected, does not fall within the scope of the legitimate duties of the Chemical Examiner himself.

May be omitted. HWW

12 The other ~~additions and alterations~~ variations some of which consist of additions, and omissions of certain words & verbal alterations are indicated in pencil in the margin of the Senior Surgeon's rules.

The additions are in square brackets, the omissions in triple brackets & verbal alterations on the portions of the rules concerned.

13 Lbtd for orders. ~~How~~ Why the Senior Surgeon has lbtd a copy of circular issued by the D. G. of Police for the sanction of Govt 15.6.09 is not clear. HH 15/6

14 It seems to be quite enough to describe the Rules as rules for conducting post mortem examinations. They may be approved.

Secy) 18.6.09. HWW

Secy

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

GPD—50,000—13-5-08

Serial No.

15 – The rules may be approved

Eleven through 1st Cr) 8/6/09

2nd 18.6

16.

342
21.6.09.

The rules are full and embody such instructions as the Senior Surgeon Considers necessary for a proper conduct of the post mortem Examination &c –
May be approved

21/6/09

1272 (Book) 17.
22/6/09 Agree

23/June

cm

2nd 21-6-09

18 Issue

cm
26/6/09

19. Please put up draft
26.6.09 2nd

III BB Ext 26/6

20. Draft eg.o Issued

26.6.09.

21. Issue
30.6.09 2nd

GPB—50,000—13-5 08

G. R. S. 12]
General and Revenue Secretariat.

med File No. 253 of 1908-09

7

Serial No.	
	To the Senior Surgeon, the Samy Commr & I. G. of Police. G.O.No 518-20 & 14.7.09 Approves for adoption, of the rules as Compiled
2	by the Senior Surgeon

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

GPB—50,000—13-5 08

D 8354

Med 7 Jus 253-08
Y 1

No. 9709
Encs. 1

Office of Senior Surgeon, Mysore Govt.,

Dated, (Camp) Bangalore, 19 - 5 - 1909.

From

Lt.-Col. John Smyth, M.D., I.M.S.,

Senior Surgeon with the Government of
H. H. the Maharaja of Mysore, ~~Bangalore.~~
(Camp) Davangere

To

K.S. Chandrasekhara Iyer Esqr., B.A., B.L.,
Secretary to the Government of H.H. the
Maharaja of Mysore, Genl.& Rev.Deptts.,
Bangalore.

Sir,

I have the honor to state that the Rules regarding post-mortem work have hitherto been obtainable for reference in various scattered documents. I have now collected and arranged them and herewith submit them to His Highness' Government for such action as they may be pleased to take, especially for their sanction if the Rules are approved.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

M.D.
Lt.Col.I.M.S.,
Senior Surgeon, Mysore Government

C.V.

J 3086

From

THE SENIOR SURGEON
WITH THE GOVT. OF MYSORE,
Bangalore.

To

The Secretary to Govt. &c.
Genl & Revs. Depts.
Bangalore.

Dated

Despatched 19-5-09

Received

General No. G. 709
No. F

Enclosure No. 1

SUBJECT.

Forwarding rules
anent post-mortem
work.

2

RULES FOR CONDUCTING POST MORTEM EXAMINATIONS AND FOR EXAMINING WOUNDED PERSONS.

1. The Medical Officer shall, immediately on receiving from any person, for examination, a corpse or any other substance, inquire and note down the name and residence of such person and, if the latter be a Police Officer, his number and rank, and shall, without delay, grant to such person a receipt for the corpse or other substance delivered by him. The receipt so granted shall contain a list of the articles or substances received by the Medical Officer, and the name of the person from whom they were received, and to whom the receipt is given.

2. In cases where a corpse is sent to him, the Medical Officer should note the time of its arrival, the date and hour of the post-mortem examination, the sex and height and apparent age of the deceased, the state of the body, whether well nourished or otherwise, the existence or absence of any caste or other marks, not of recent origin, such as cicatrices, deformities, and the like; and whether the marks upon it correspond with those in the Police or other report. He should also note the

state of the body as regards decomposition and rigor mortis. Also its temperature to the touch, and the nature and condition of the clothing, if any.

3. In cases where he has been taken to the place where a corpse lies, besides the above, he should note the place and nature of the soil (if out in the open country) where he found the body, and its position [as it lies] He should also note, in cases of death from violence, the position of the body in reference to surrounding objects, such as sharp stones and the like, contact with which, it may be alleged, has produced the injury, also whether any blood stains are visible on such objects or anywhere near the corpse, and whether any weapons are lying near it. In cases of suspected death from poisoning, he should note whether any appearance, as of vomited matters, &c., is present in the neighbourhood of the body. [He should preserve for examination any vomited matter he may be able to collect.]

4. Commencing at the skull and terminating at the feet, he should examine the bones to determine whether any of them are fractured or dislocated, and inspect the vertebral column throughout; also the teeth, hair, orifices of the body and general surface, and also note the state of the

he pupils, whether contracted or otherwise, and whether any substances are grasped in the hands. [He should also note whether there is any prolapse of the bowel]

Abdomen.

5 If there be any wound or contusion on the body, he should describe its position, length and breadth. He should note the depth and direction of all wounds, whether there are any cuts on the clothes corresponding to them, and examine the wound carefully for the presence of foreign bodies, preserving such as are found. He should also state whether, in his opinion, the wound was mortal, giving his reasons for such opinion, and he should be specially careful to examine the neck for marks of compression

6. He should ~~also~~ state his opinion as to whether the wounds, if any, could have been self inflicted, or whether they might have been the result of accident, giving reasons for his opinion.

7. He should carefully examine any gun, sword, blood-stained instrument, stick or stone, by which the wounds may have been inflicted, and mark such instrument so as to be able to recognise it, if asked to do so. He should also compare the weapon with the wound alleged to have been caused

by it, and state whether, in his opinion, it was possible for the wound to have been produced by it.

8. He should commence his dissection of the body, as soon as possible after its receipt, by removing the top of the skull in the usual way with a saw, and note anything that may appear unusual. He should be careful not to mistake any of the various bony processes for fracture, noting carefully the precise situation of any blood or clot, other than that due to the procedures of the post-mortem examination.

9 He should then make an incision from the chin down to the pubes, so as to be able to examine the tongue, mouth, windpipe, oesophagus, heart, lungs, liver, stomach, spleen, kidney and intestines, also the urinary bladder, and note whether any of these organs appear diseased, and whether any wound on the outside of the body communicates with the contents of the chest or abdomen; also the nature of any fluid he may find in the pleural or peritoneal cavity.

10. In manipulating friable organs such as lungs, liver, kidneys, & especially the spleen, he should be careful not to rupture them. If he he finds a rupture in any of them he should note whether there is any

blood

blood clot in the rupture.]

11. In making his examination he should disturb, as little as possible any organ which may communicate with an external wound, if he has reason to think that the body may be examined by another medical man.

12. In the cases of females, he should examine the ovaries & uterus, bearing in mind that abortion is sometimes caused by the introduction into the uterus of pointed instruments which may cause death. He should note the presence or absence of pregnancy, and [if pregnancy exist] the probable period to which it has advanced; and examine the external generative organs for marks of violence.

abortion

13. In the case of infants, he should note the condition of the umbilicus and cord, if any of the latter remain. He should also remove the lungs, and try whether they sink or float in water

14. In cases of suspected poisoning, he should not neglect to examine every organ of the body, and should pay special attention to the rules laid down hereunder with reference to the duties of the Chemical Examiner.

15. He should bear in mind that death

death may possibly have been the result of starvation, exposure to cold or heat, smothering, drowning lightning, strangulation, poisoning or disease; and, if he considers death was due to any of these causes, he should give his reasons.

16. He should keep all his original notes accurately entered in a special rough post-mortem book from which he should compile the formal certificate to be given to the Police, and should not lend them to any one to read. The rough notes should always be signed by him, and be completed before the certificate is filled in.

17. In all cases, the examination of the body should be thorough, and the notes of the appearances discovered should be as minute as possible.

18. No one is to be allowed to be present at a post-mortem examination, except a Medical Officer or subordinate, the necessary hospital servants, a Magistrate, Police Officer or other authorised official deputed by proper authority for the promotion of the ends of justice.

19. Post-mortem examination should be conducted with all decency, and completed by carefully suturing all skin incisions and cleansing the surface as well as possible.

20. Full notes should also be made

(II) Cranium and Spinal Canal

(1) Skull and ve tebræ	(2) Membranes	(3) Brain and spinal cord

NOTE—The spinal canal need not be examined unless an indication of disease or injury exists.

(III) Thorax

(1) Walls, ribs and cartilages	(2) Pleuræ	(3) Larynx and rachea	(4) Right lung	(5) Left lung	(6) Pericardium	(7) Heart	(8) Large vessels

(IV) Abdomen

(1) Walls	(2 Peritoneum	(3) Mouth, pharynx and œsopphagus	(4) Stomach and its contents	(5) Small intestine and its contents	(6) Large intestine and its contents	(7) Liver	(8) Spleen

(V) Genito-Urinary Organs

(1) Kidneys	(2) Bladder	(3) Organs of generation, external and internal

(VI) Muscles, Bones and Joints

(1) Injury	(2) Disease or deformity	(3) Fracture	(4) Dislocation

More detail d description of injury or disease

Opinion as to cause of death

GPB.—250 books of 1½ qrs. each—3-9-05

in cases of examination of wounded persons.

21 When summoned to give evidence in any case in which he has made a post-mortem examination the Medical Officer should bring with him to Court [the Post-mortem Register containing] the original notes made by him at the time of conducting such examination.

22 The Medical Officer should submit, in the authorised form, the results of the post-mortem examination held by him along with the inference or inferences deducible therefrom, to the Police Authorities within twenty four hours from the completion of such examination. Should he desire to be furnished with additional facts in connection with the history of the case, before pronouncing a final opinion, he must embody the expression of such reservation in his report. This rule does not alter the procedure in cases of actual or suspected poisoning, the reservation in such cases being dependent upon the submission of the report of the Chemical Examiner

23 When the Medical Officer is working under the orders of a District Medical Officer he shall also, at the time when he sends or hands over to the Police his report on a post-mortem examination just completed by

him, send a copy of the same to his District Medical Officer who will enter thereon such remarks as he may deem necessary and return it without delay to the Examining Medical Officer. The latter shall make a copy of the District Medical Officer's remarks in his own office copy and then send on the report containing the District Medical Officer's remarks, to the Police Authority to whom he sent his original report

Whenever a District Medical Officer has reason to be dissatisfied with the post-mortem examination conducted by a Medical Subordinate, he may himself hold or depute any other competent officer under his orders to hold another examination.

24 No erasions should be made in a report. Alterations should be made by scoring out the part to be deleted, initialling the same and writing in the proper words afresh above the deletion.

----oOo----

RULES REGARDING THE TRANSMISSION OF SUSPECTED SUBSTANCES TO THE CHEMICAL EXAMINER AND THEIR ANALYSIS

1 In the transmission of suspected matters (in cases of poisoning or suspected poisoning) to the Chemical Examiner

Examiner for analysis, the following rules are to be observed

(a) Three objects should be carefully attended to in the despatch of all suspected matters; the proof of identity, the possibility of any interference during transit; and thirdly preservation from decomposition.

(b) Articles for analysis should be enclosed in perfectly clean glass bottles or jars, accurately corked, tied and sealed with hard wax, and by the private seal of the Surgeon or Magistrate. Bottles, &c., should be enclosed in a thick layer of cotton, and all placed in tin, soldered, and sealed. When wooden boxes must be used, these should be sealed and taped at every opening below as well as above. When it is impossible to obtain glass bottles or jars in which to transmit the portions of the body intended for chemical examination, clean new earthen pots or jars should be substituted. But these should not be used till every effort to obtain glass or glazed jars has failed.

(c) All liquid and animal matters liable to decomposition should be put up in, or mixed with the strongest spirit available; this effectually prevents decomposition, and without interfering with the subsequent analysis, obviates many serious accidents.

(d) A minute and detailed account of the case, symptoms, appearances on dissection, and treatment, if any, should, in every instance, be forwarded, as these afford a clue, not only to the kind or class of poison made use of, but also not unfrequently to the individual or identical poison itself

(e) In cases where arsenic or any other mineral poison is suspected, and when the patient has survived for twenty four hours or more after its exhibition, the liver should be sent, as well as the stomach and a part of the intestines, also a portion of any

suspected

suspected matter, which might have been the vehicle of exhibiting the poison, as food, rice, congee water &c., When any substance vomited by a patient is forwarded, it should be mentioned whether it is a portion of the first vomiting or not; the matters omitted by the first vomitings are most likely to contain portions of the poison.

2 The rules for the transmission of suspected substances, as above given, will not prevent analysis being made by Medical Officers at out stations, who may have the means of examining suspected matters, and it is desirable on legal grounds, that local analysis should be made whenever possible.

3 If a partial examination of a suspected substance has been made by the Medical Officer on the spot, the result of the local investigation is to be stated

4 Police Officers, Magistrates and others should, in every case, forward suspected substances in the first instance to the District Medical Officer and this Officer, if unable to come to a definite opinion thereon, is responsible for their transmission to the Chemical Examiner with every needful statement elucidatory of the case.

----oOo----

13

CIRCULAR NO. 70 DATED 26th JUNE 1907 FROM THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE IN MYSORE

Instances having come to notice in which the Police have called upon Medical Officers to proceed to the spot, to hold post-mortem examinations in cases of unnatural or suspicious death, when it would have been more convenient and better, for the body to have been taken to the nearest Dispensary, the attention of all Police Officers is drawn to Clause 3 of Section 174, Criminal Procedure Code quoted below for ready reference:-

> "When there is any doubt regarding the cause of death, or when for any other reason the Police Officer considers it expedient so to do, he shall, subject to such rules as the Government may prescribe in this behalf, forward the body, with a view to its being examined, to the nearest Civil Surgeon or other qualified Medical man appointed in this behalf by the Government, if the state of the weather and the distance admit of its being so forwarded without risk of such putrefaction on the road as would render such examination useless."

2. The Inspector General fears that in some cases too wide an interpretation is given to the last qualifying sentence which governs the whole para. This sentence is restrictive and contemplates exceptional cases, in which the usual procedure of sending the body to the nearest hospital

or dispensary for post-mortem examination may be deviated from. Such instances are few and far between.

3 The advantage of sending bodies to the nearest hospital or dispensary is obvious, as it is there that the necessary appliances are at hand which are needed for a systematic 'post-mortem' examination.

4. The late Chief Commissioner's circular No.237 dated 25th September 1875 on the subject is in consonance with the above.

5. It is therefore directed that as a general rule bodies should be sent to the nearest hospital or dispensary for post-mortem examination: exception being made only in such cases where it is impossible to do so either, from the state of the weather or the great distance.

6. In sending bodies for post-mortem examination the following instructions should be attended to:-

i. The body should be sent in a light and strong doolie (litter) with a covering to protect it from sun and rain.

ii. The clothing left on the body must be properly secured round it; any instrument likely to have caused death being carefully secured.

ii Police officers along the route are bound to assist in obtaining men to carry the doolie or stretcher, so that the body may be sent in as rapidly as possible

Two Police Officers who have been present at the investigation shall accompany the body, and if necessary suitable means of conveyance shall be provided for them.

On the arrival of the body at its destination it shall be at once placed and watched in the dead house and intimation sent to the Medical Officer.

When forwarding such intimation all available information as to the supposed cause of death must be given.

If the post-mortem examination is conducted in a mofussil hospital or dispensary, a Police guard should be kept at the place where the examination is held and the same should not be withdrawn till the Medical Officer completes the examination.

viii. The Police Officer sent in charge of a corpse need not be present throughout the details of the post-mortem examination. It will suffice if he stands sufficiently near to be able to testify that the body which had been in his charge was the one examined by the Medical Officer.

7 Superintendents and Assistants are requested to note the above instructions and see that they are strictly adhered to.

---oOo---

15

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7 Superintendents and Assistants are requested to note the above instructions and see that they are strictly adhered to.

----oOo----

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1917

G.R.S.-28]

File No 253-0

Serial No. 2

Diary No. of letter replied to 8354

Proceedings of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

( )

, the 190

Date of issue 14-7-09

Signed by M.K.M.

READ—

Letter no 9709 dtd 19th may'09 from the Senior Surgeon, Kolar the Govt of Mysore forwarding a set of consolidated rules re: post mortem examns to be conducted by medical officers:—

Here copy the letter & Rules

ORDER THEREON.—No 518-20 med 253-08-2 14.7.09

The rules as compiled by the Senior Surgeon are approved for adoption

KMS

For Secretary

5/30/16

To the Senior Surgeon

" Secy: Coorg

" I. G. of Police.

over

SUBJECT

GPB—6,000—13-5-08